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NSC BRIEFING

13 May 1954

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

NEW SOVIET BOMBERS

1. Preliminary Air Force evaluations of new Soviet bombers indicate the following:

A. [REDACTED] is a swept-wing, four-engine, heavy jet bomber--considered to be a Tupolev design.

1. Size: fuselage, approximately 156.5 feet long; wing span, approximately 185 feet; estimated gross weight of 300,000 pounds--aircraft considerably larger than previously estimated.

2. Each engine is estimated at 15,000 pounds sea-level static thrust. [8 with 8.250 pounds]

3. Performance characteristics previously estimated for the heavy jet bombers estimated to

be in operational units in 1957

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appear to be adequate.

4. Bomb bay large enough for one 11,000 pound general purpose or one conventional atomic bomb.
5. The aircraft appears to have considerable electronic equipment.

B. [REDACTED] is similar in configuration [REDACTED] but is probably an Ilyushin design.

1. Same size-class as B-47.
2. Engines probably same as those

in [REDACTED]

3. Electronic equipment on [REDACTED] appears similar to that on

4. No indication of bomb bay length or capacity.

II. Data on comparable US types:

A. US B-52:

1. Size: Fuselage length--156.5 feet,

wing span--185 feet, normal gross

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weight--390,000.

2. Engines: eight J-57 axial flow turbo jets with sea level static thrust of 8,250 pounds each.
3. Maximum bomb load of 50,000 pounds.
4. Combat radius--3160 nautical miles.

B. US B-47:

1. Size: length--106.8 feet, a wing span--116 feet, normal gross weight--125,000 pounds.
2. Engines: six J-47 axial flow turbo jets with sea level static thrust rating of 5270 pounds each.
3. Can carry one 22,000 pound general purpose bomb or one 10,000 pound special weapon.
4. Combat radius--10,000 pound bomb load--1635 nautical miles.